

## BOARD OF FINANCE

April 16, 2008

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, April 16, 2008.

Members Present: First Selectman McCarty, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Volain, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Piccirillo, Ms. Brown, Mr. Monico

Also Present: Assistant Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members or distributed at the time.

1. Agenda – April 10, 2008
2. Revised Agenda – April 15, 2008
3. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2008
4. March 31, 2008 - Report of Budget/Overexpenditures/Special Funds
  - Report of Revenue
  - Board of Education Accounting
4. Draft Resolutions dated 4/16/07, Finalize 08-09 Budget
5. IOM dated April 7, 2008, Property Tax Impact
6. IOM dated April 4, 2008, Change in Meeting Date
7. IOM dated April 2, 2008, FY 08-09 Budget

### MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2008, Mr. Doheny moved their acceptance, seconded by Mr. Piccirillo.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Doheny asked if the Board members who abstained at the previous meeting on a vote regarding an increase in salary and full-time employment for the Registrars of Voters would explain why they abstained.

Ms. McCarty said that she did not think it was necessary to explain the reason for her abstention because she felt that her opinion was expressed clearly at previous meetings of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Hallahan added that it was late in the evening and he apologized for not explaining the reason for his abstention.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REPORT OF BUDGET/OVEREXPENDITURES/SPECIAL FUNDS, REVENUE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING MARCH 31, 2008

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of March were at 99.7%. Mr. Swinkoski reviewed the overexpenditure report in detail. Further discussion followed. The reports were accepted as presented.

FINALIZE FY 2008-2009 BUDGET

Chairman Volain began the discussion stating that at last week's public hearing there were no significant reasons given to reduce the proposed budget. He said that there was much discussion about the paramedic program for the Fire Department. He stated that he talked to the Fire Chief about a federal grant that the Chief would like to apply for which will allow the Town to hire firefighters.

Chairman Volain stated that the budget would be reduced by \$127,000 for the health insurance premiums. Submitted bids for health insurance are being reviewed and Mr. Gomeau indicated that there would be a savings of at least \$127,000.

In addition to the savings, Chairman Volain said that revenue anticipated from the collection of delinquent taxes will be increased by \$100,000.

Chairman Volain said that expenses would be increased as follows: \$2,500 for the library to remain open on Saturdays during the summer; \$6,824 to reflect the increase in salaries of the Registrars of Voters and \$50,000 for utility costs.

Mr. Monico suggested that the Board of Finance fund the position of Assistant Fire Chief because of the extra work that will be involved with the upcoming Rabina Project. He also recommended that police department vehicles and fire equipment be taken out of the capital budget and put into their own operating budgets.

Ms. McCarty stated that the Rabina Project still has to go through Planning & Zoning and that will take at least another 6 months.

Chairman Volain disagreed with Mr. Monico's recommendation on taking the police vehicles and fire equipment out of the capital budget. He felt it was easier to cut capital items than an operating budget. He also said that every department would like new personnel but we have to draw the line. The Town cannot afford additional personnel.

Mr. Doheny suggested that once the Rabina project gets accelerated maybe the Board could consider the funding of the position at that time.

Further discussion then followed on the Fire Department Safer Grant which only applies to new personnel not existing firefighters.

Mr. Doheny suggested that a salary survey be performed on the Registrar of Voters position to resolve the recent conflicts. He then moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Registrars of Voters be included in the ongoing salary survey and that the results be shared with the Board of Finance and be considered at that time.

After discussion, Mr. Doheny amended the resolution to read:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Registrars of Voters be included in the ongoing salary survey; such cost not to exceed \$2,000; and that the results be shared with the Board of Finance and be considered at that time.

Seconded by Mr. Hallahan.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - No	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - No	Piccirillo - No	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - No		

Mr. Hallahan stated that he felt the proposed budget was realistic and he would support it.

Mr. Volain said that although the Board members have diverse personalities they worked together to put forth a fair budget. He asked citizens to analyze the budget and urged them to vote with their heads and not their hearts. He asked the town to be fair and that if they think the budget is too high let the Board know where to cut it. He said that he would support this budget.

Ms. Brown then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends a Town Government Budget for FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$38,854,860.

Seconded by Ms. McCarty.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Mr. Piccirillo then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends a Board of Education Budget for FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$42,189,085.

Seconded by Ms. McCarty.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Ms. Brown then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends the expenditure of \$1,688,182 for 23 Capital Items listed in the FY 08-09 Budget; the cost of which will be defrayed by a portion of the unappropriated fund balance.

Seconded by Mr. Piccirillo.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Mr. Piccirillo then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That a Total Budget for FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$82,732,127. be presented to the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Seconded by Chairman Volain.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

Chairman Volain made a motion to restate the last resolution.

Seconded by Ms. McCarty

RESOLVED, That a Total Budget for FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$82,732,127. (Town Government \$38,854,860. – Board of Education of \$42,189,085. – Capital Budget of \$1,688,182.) be presented to the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 12, 2008.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 50 minutes with several residents asking questions and making recommendations/suggestions.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Volain moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

VOTE:	Doheny - Yes	Volain - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Brown - Yes	Piccirillo - Yes	Monico - Yes
	McCarty - Yes		